

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01321 080440Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----053570 080447Z /21

O 080406Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0563
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01321

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, MARR, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: TUENI/LEONARD CONVERSATION,
APRIL 7

1. SUMMARY: LEBANESE PERMREP TUENI MET WITH AMB
LEONARD APRIL 7. DISCUSSION COVERED SECURITY COUNCIL
CONSULTATIONS ON APRIL 10, SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD
UNIFIL AND PLO ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON, AND 8TH SPECIAL
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SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY. END SUMMARY.

2. AMB LEONARD OPENED APRIL 7 CONVERSATION WITH AMB
TUENI BY OBSERVING THAT SC CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULED FOR
10:30 AM ON APRIL 10 WOULD SERVE TO WARN ISRAELIS OF
NEED TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH LEBANON. TUENI RESPONDED
WITH REFERENCES TO THE UN SPOKESMAN'S COMMENT AT HIS

NOON BRIEFING TO EFFECT THAT WALDHEIM DID NOT THINK THE ISRAELI PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL AS ANNOUNCED SO FAR ARE ADEQUATE SINCE RES 425 CALLS FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL "FORTHWITH." TUENI ADDED THAT KUWAITI AMB BISHARA PLANS TO DELIVER STRONG STATEMENT AT APRIL 10 SC CONSULTATIONS. THIS MAY BE FOLLOWED BY STATEMENTS FROM OTHER SC MEMBERS. IMPORTANT ASPECT IS TO KEEP UP PRESSURE FOR WITHDRAWAL. TUENI BELIEVES THIS SC CONSULTATION COULD PREPARE THE WAY FOR AN EVENTUAL INCREASE IN UNIFIL AFTER THE 4,000 FIGURE IS REACHED, WHICH HE ASSUMED WOULD OCCUR WITH NIGERIAN CONTINGENT.

3. TUENI OBSERVED THAT PLO HAS BEEN MORE RESTRAINED THAN MANY LEBANESE ANTICIPATED. HE DOES NOT FEEL SOVIETS HAVE ENCOURAGED PLO TO BE DIFFICULT. PLO WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR WORSE WITH SOVIET ENCOURAGEMENT. PLO IS IN HIGH SPIRITS AS IT IS -- THEY FEEL THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CONVERTING A MILITARY DEFEAT INTO A POLITICAL VICTORY. LEONARD EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ARAB GOVTS EXERTING INFLUENCE ON PLO TO OBSERVE CEASE-FIRE AND NOT DISRUPT UNIFIL OPERATIONS.

4. TUENI BELIEVES SOVIETS DO NOT WANT TO OPPOSE UNIFIL. THEY WOULD PREFER THE OPTION OF REMAINING OUTSIDE AND ASSUMING A CRITICAL STANCE. HE CONJECTURED THAT THE POLISH RESPONSE WAS AN OPEN QUESTION.
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5. TURNING TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON FINANCING UNIFIL, TUENI EXPECTED IT WOULD GO SMOOTHLY, PARTICULARLY IF THERE IS A FORMAL MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE THE SPECIAL SESSION CONVENES ON APRIL 20. LEONARD DOUBTED THAT A SC MEETING WOULD PREVENT VERBAL COMBAT AT THE SPECIAL SESSION, SINCE THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE VERY DIFFERENT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM THOSE AT THE SC. LEONARD STRESSED THE NEED TO COUNSEL ARABS, EE'S AND OTHERS ON DESIRABILITY OF A CALM SPECIAL SESSION. LEONARD ADDED THAT, SHOULD THE SC BE PRESENTED WITH A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL, THE US WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE ABLE TO GO ALONG UNLESS ISRAEL ANNOUNCED A COMPLETE SHIFT IN POLICY, I.E. NOT TO WITHDRAW. THIS WAS CERTAINLY NOT OUR PRESENT READING OF GOI INTENTIONS. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN01321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780151-1120
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780477/aaaacnge.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d6a6aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3027561
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: TUENI/LEONARD CONVERSATION, APRIL 7
TAGS: PORG, MARR, IS, LE, XF, UNSC, (TUENI), (LEONARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d6a6aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014